

Amendments from Transitional Assistance: 29, 33, 193, 196, 304, 307, 342, 570, 667, 671, 708, 784, 936, 1031, 1042, 1043, 1133, 1183, 1267, 1317, 1383, 1396.

Comment: Amendments removed for debate and subsequently withdrawn

Amendments from Social Services: 40, 102, 119, 120, 161, 169, 188, 189, 212, 273, 290, 359, 362, 393, 428, 510, 530, 536, 638, 661, 674, 677, 678, 729, 760, 806, 881, 957, 958, 981, 1041, 1047, 1067, 1130, 1167, 1208, 1217, 1323, 1350, 1378, 1393, 1420, 1437.

Deleted: 1273,

Deleted: 1062,

Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop and others move to amend the bill in section 2 by striking item 4400-1000 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

4400-1000 For the central administration of the department; provided, that during fiscal year 2009 the department shall maintain 2 transitional assistance offices in the city of Springfield; provided further, that all costs associated with verifying disability for all programs of the department shall be paid from this item; provided further, that the department shall submit on a monthly basis to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the secretary of administration and finance a status report on program expenditures, savings and revenues, error rate measurements, and public assistance caseloads and benefits; provided further, that the report shall comprehensively track statewide use of the emergency assistance program by eligibility category including, but not limited to, caseload, average length of use or stay and monthly expenditures; provided further, that the department shall collect all out-of-court settlement restitution payments; provided further, that the restitution payments shall include, but not be limited to, installment and lump sum payments; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, unless otherwise expressly provided, federal reimbursements received for the purposes of the department, including reimbursements for administrative, fringe and overhead costs, for the current fiscal year and prior fiscal years, shall be credited to the General Fund; provided further, that under 21 U.S.C. section 862a(d)(1), the department shall exempt individuals from the eligibility restrictions of 21 U.S.C. section 862a, except that individuals incarcerated for a conviction which would otherwise be disqualifying under 21 U.S.C. section 862a(a) shall not be eligible for cash assistance funded through item 4403-2000 during the first 12 months after release from a correctional institution unless the individual qualifies for an exemption under subsection (e) of section 110 of chapter 5 of the acts of 1995, or any successor statute, or a domestic violence waiver; provided further, that an application for assistance under

chapter 118 of the General Laws shall be deemed an application for assistance under chapter 118E of the General Laws; provided further, that if assistance under said chapter 118 is denied, the application shall be transmitted by the department to the executive office of health and human services for a determination of eligibility under said chapter 118E; provided further, that the department shall continue policies to increase participation in the food stamp program; provided further, that the department shall, to the extent feasible within the appropriation provided, provide for extended office hours; provided further, that the department shall accomplish the staffing of these extended office hours to the maximum extent possible through the use of flex-time that will allow workers to modify their working hours to accommodate their specific personal and family needs; provided further, that the department shall, to the extent feasible within the appropriation provided, continue and expand the program of placing workers at community and human service organizations for the purposes of facilitating food stamp applications and redeterminations; provided further, that the department shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means no later than December 15, 2008 on the extended office hours and placement of workers at community and human service organizations that the department has determined is feasible within the appropriation provided and that the department will provide in the current fiscal year; and provided further that not less than \$800,000 shall be expended for the operation of the homeless management information system\$67,871,680

And move further to amend the bill in section 2 by inserting after the word “appropriation;”, in item 4403-2000, the following words:- “provided further, that not less than \$418,074 shall be expended for the purposes of the operation of the transportation assistance program operated by Traveler’s Aid Family Services; provided further, that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended for the lift transportation program operated by Traveler’s Aid Family Services;”

And move further to amend the bill in section 2 by striking out line item 4403-2120 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

4403-2120 For certain expenses of the emergency assistance program as follows: (a) contracted family shelters; (b) transitional housing programs; (c) programs to reduce homelessness in Barnstable, Dukes, Nantucket and Hampden counties; (d) residential education centers for single mothers with children; (e) intake

centers; and (f) voucher shelters; provided, that eligibility shall be limited to families with income at or below 130 per cent of the federal poverty level; provided, however, that any family whose income exceeds 130 per cent of the federal poverty level while the family is receiving assistance funded by this item shall not become ineligible for assistance due to exceeding the income limit for a period of 6 months from the date that the 130 per cent level was exceeded; provided further, that the department shall establish reasonable requirements for such families to escrow some or all of the portion of their income which exceeds 130 per cent of the federal poverty level; provided further, that any such escrowed funds shall be exempt from otherwise applicable asset limits; provided further that the family shall be allowed to withdraw the amount placed in escrow upon transition to permanent housing or losing eligibility for shelter services; provided further, that benefits under this item shall be provided only to residents who are citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise permanently residing under color of law in the United States; provided further, that the department shall take all steps necessary to enforce regulations to prevent abuse in the emergency assistance program; provided further, that no emergency assistance expenditures shall be paid from this item unless explicitly authorized; provided further, that eligible households shall be placed in shelters as close as possible to their home community unless a household requests otherwise; provided further, that if the closest available placement is not within 20 miles of the household's home community, the household shall be transferred to an appropriate shelter within 20 miles of its home community at the earliest possible date unless the household requests otherwise; provided further, that eligibility for shelter by an otherwise eligible family shall not be impaired by prior receipt of any non-shelter benefit; provided further, that the department shall make every effort to ensure that children receiving services from this item shall continue attending school in the community in which they lived prior to receiving services funded from this item; provided further, that not less than \$1,668,180 shall be expended for the Housing Assistance Program operated by Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc.; provided further, that notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, the department shall immediately provide shelter for up to 30 days to families who appear to be eligible for such shelter based on statements provided by the family and any other information in the possession of the department

but who need additional time to obtain any third-party verifications reasonably required by the department; provided further, that shelter benefits received under the preceding proviso shall not render a family ineligible under any regulation providing that a family who previously received shelter is ineligible for shelter benefits for a period of 12 months; provided further, that families receiving such shelter benefits who are found not to be eligible for continuing shelter benefits shall be eligible for aid pending a timely appeal pursuant to section 16 of chapter 18 of the General Laws; provided further, that the department shall not impose unreasonable requirements for third-party verification and shall accept verifications from the family whenever reasonable; provided further, that in promulgating, amending or rescinding regulations with respect to eligibility or benefits under this program, the department shall take into account the amounts available to it for expenditure in this item so as not to exceed the amount appropriated in this item; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, 60 days before promulgating any such eligibility or benefit changes, the commissioner shall file with house and senate committees on ways and means and with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate a determination by the secretary of health and human services that available appropriations for the program will be insufficient to meet projected expenses and a report setting forth such proposed changes; provided further, that all of this item shall be subject to appropriation and, in the event of a deficiency, nothing in this item shall give rise to or shall be construed as giving rise to any enforceable right or entitlement to services in excess of the amounts appropriated by this item; provided further, that nothing in the preceding proviso shall authorize the department to alter eligibility criteria or benefit levels except to the extent that such changes are needed to avoid a deficiency in this item; provided, that \$25,000 shall be expended for education, advocacy and case management services by Casa Latina, located in the City of Northampton; provided further, that an amount not less than \$179,381 shall be expended for the Crossroads Family Shelter in East Boston; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for a contract with Project Just Because, a non-profit organization in the town of Hopkinton, to assist in providing food, supplies, and services to the indigent and those in danger of becoming homeless across the MetroWest region; provided further that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the Playspace Programs operated by Horizons for Homeless

Children in family shelters; provided further, that contract (RPO) SCWELL4092500010000 with Open Pantry Community Services, Inc., be an amount not less than \$545,195; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for the River House shelter in Beverly; and provided further that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the Weymouth Youth and Family Services Teen Center to provide for advocacy, social service programs and to promote growth, social welfare and education.....\$86,921,288

And move further to amend the bill in section 2 by striking out line item 4800-0015 and inserting in place thereof the following item:-

4800-0015 For central and area office administration; provided, that the associated expenses of employees whose AA object class costs are paid from item 4800-1100 shall be paid from this item; provided further, that no funds shall be expended from this item for the compensation of unit 8 employees; provided further, that the department shall not place a child or adolescent referred by, or discharged from, the care of the department of mental health until the latter department forwards an assessment and recommendation as to whether the child or adolescent may be appropriately placed in foster care or, if due to severe emotional disturbance, is more appropriate for group care; provided further, that the department, in consultation with the department of mental health, shall establish guidelines to assist the latter department in making such assessments and recommendations; provided further, that, unless otherwise authorized, all funds, including federal reimbursements received by the department, shall be credited to the General Fund; provided further, that the department shall expend not less than \$1,000,000 in the AA or CC object codes to hire medical and psychiatric staff to collaborate with the department's social workers; provided further, that the department shall employ not less than 1 full-time board-certified physician; provided further, that the department and the department of early education and care shall design and implement standards for early education and care placements made through the supportive child care program; provided further, that the department, in collaboration with the department of early education and care, shall maintain a centralized list detailing the number of children eligible for supportive child care services, the number of supportive slots filled, and the number of supportive slots available; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the

contrary, the department shall not reduce recoupment amounts recommended by the state auditor; provided further, that not later than February 17 of the current fiscal year, the department shall provide to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on children and families a report detailing the number of medical and psychiatric personnel currently employed by or contracted with the department; provided further, that the report shall include the number of foster care reviews conducted by the department and the average length of time in which each review is completed; provided further, that the report shall contain the number of the department's contracts reviewed by the state auditor and the number of corrective action plans issued; provided further, that the report shall also include the number of corrective action plans entered into by the department; provided further, that the report shall include the number of social workers and supervisors who have a bachelors' or masters' degree in social work; provided further, that the report shall include the total number of social workers and the total number of social workers holding licensure by level; provided further, that the comptroller shall act in accordance with item 1000-0001 if the report, with all of its components, is not filed within 10 days of the stated due date; provided further, that the department shall file a report on the first business day of each month to the chairs of the senate and house committees on ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on children and families on the caseload of the department; provided further, that caseloads provided in this report shall include: residential placements, group care, foster care, therapeutic foster care, adoption, guardianship, 51A reports, substantiated 51A reports, the number of children who die in the care and custody of the department, the number of children on the waitlist for supportive child care and the number of medical and psychiatric consultation requests made by the department's social workers; provided further, that the report shall include the number of approved foster care placements; provided further, that the report shall also include the number of children in psychiatric hospitals and community based acute treatment programs who remain hospitalized beyond their medically necessary stay while awaiting placement and the number of days each case remains in placement beyond that which is medically necessary; provided further, that the report shall include the number of children under department of social services care and custody who are being served in medical or psychiatric care provided through other publicly-funded sources; provided further, that the report

shall also contain the number of children served by supervised visitation centers and the number of those children who are reunified with their families; provided further, that the report shall contain information on the total number of children served, their ages, the number of children served in each service plan, the number of children in out-of-home placements and the number of placements each child has had before receiving an out-of-home placement; provided further, that the report shall also contain the number of families receiving multiple 51A reports within a 10-month period, the number of cases reopened within 6 months of being closed and the number of children who return home and then re-enter an out-of-home placement within 6 months; provided further, that the report shall detail the number of children diverted from residential settings, the programs in which they were placed, the associated cost savings from the diversion and any other measurements that would help assess the success of these programs in promoting the health and well-being of children; provided further, that the commissioner of the department of social services may transfer funds between items 4800-0021, 4800-0030, 4800-0038, and 4800-0041, as necessary, pursuant to an allocation plan, which shall detail by object class the distribution of the funds to be transferred and which the commissioner shall file with the house and senate committees on ways and means 15 days prior to any such transfer; provided further, that not later than December 1, 2008, the department shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on children and families including but not limited to (a) the criteria for which a child in need of services is removed from the home; (b) the criteria for the delivery of services alternative to removing a child from the home; and (c) the criteria for the involvement of the department of social services when a child remains in the home; and provided further, that not more than 5 per cent of any item shall be transferred in fiscal year 2009.....\$77,329,472

And move to further amend the bill in section 2 by striking line item 4800-0038 and inserting in place thereof the following line item:-

4800-0038 For stabilization, unification, reunification, permanency, adoption, guardianship and foster care services provided by the department of social services; provided, that services funded through this item shall include shelter services, substance abuse treatment, family reunification networks, young parent

programs, parent aides, education and counseling services, family preservation services, foster care, adoption and guardianship subsidies, tiered reimbursements used to promote the foster care placement of children with special medical and social needs, assessment of the appropriateness of adoption for children in the care of the department for more than 12 months, protective services provided by partnership agencies, targeted recruitment and retention of foster families, respite care services, post-adoption services, support services for foster, kinship and adoptive families, and juvenile firesetter programs; provided further, that any child who would have been eligible for a clothing benefit under regulations in place on January 1, 2006, shall receive a clothing benefit in fiscal year 2009; provided further, that not less than \$2,300,000 shall be expended for the Young Parent Support Program; provided further, that not less than \$500,000 shall be expended on the recruitment and retention of foster parents; provided further, that not less than \$498,850 shall be expended for Latinas y Ninos and Casa Esperanza; provided further that not less than \$7,500 shall be provided for the House of Peace and Education in Gardner for "HOPE for Kids"; provided further that, no less than \$300,000 shall be expended for Massachusetts Families for Kids; provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended to support the family center component of the Greater Lowell Family Resource Center; provided further that no less \$125,000 shall be expended for the North End Outreach Network of Springfield; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the Conway Children's Advocacy Center of Plymouth County; provided further, that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended in region 1 for a community-based family unification counseling program to prevent juvenile delinquency; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for Family Service, Inc. of Lawrence; provided further, that not less than \$163,642 be expended for the International Institute of the Merrimack Valley; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the Families United for Teens' Health; provided further, that not less than \$187,500 shall be expended on the Center for Family Connections in Cambridge to provide therapeutic and rehabilitative mental health services, targeted research on well-being outcomes, and permanency planning for older hard-to-place youth and those aging out of the foster care system; provided further that not less than \$140,000 shall be expended for the MSPCC Franklin County Supervised Visitation Program; provided further, that not less than \$300,000 shall be expended for a statewide

contract with Northeastern University for violence prevention and conflict resolution program; provided further that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for youth violence prevention programs administered by Youth Central Services; provided further, that not less than \$130,000 shall be expended for the Children's Cove Cape and Islands Child Advocacy Center; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for the Concilio Hispano in Somerville; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for Centro Presente of Cambridge; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended for the Massachusetts Association of Portuguese Speakers of Cambridge; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended for the Haitian Coalition of Somerville; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended for the Baby Safe Haven program; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the purpose of providing case management services for the Amity Transitional Housing Program in the city of Lynn; provided further that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended for the Julie's Family Learning Center in South Boston, a section of Boston; provided further that not less than \$257,000 shall be expended for a contract with the Labouré Center in the South Boston section of Boston for an Integrated Family Service team in Region 6; provided further that not less than \$104,123 shall be expended in grants for Framingham High School for the Teen Parenting program; provided further that no less, \$298,000 for Alternative Schools for students aged 14-16 inclusive who are placed before the on children in need of services petitions (CHINS); provided further, that not less than \$140,000 shall be expended for the Comprehensive School Age Parenting Program, Inc. for maintaining and expanding its year-round school based programs in Boston high schools, middle schools, pilot schools and small schools education complexes for pregnant teens, young mothers and fathers and other youth at high risk of school drop out; and provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be provided for youth services at the Uxbridge Youth Center\$314,005,962

And move to further amend the bill in section 2 by striking line item 4800-1400 and inserting in place thereof the following item:-

4800-1400 For shelters and support services for people at risk of domestic violence; provided, that the department shall pursue the establishment of public-private partnership agreements established for family stabilization services funded from

sources other than the commonwealth; provided further, that services shall include supervised visitation programs, certified batterer intervention programs for indigent batterers and their families, and scattered site transitional housing programs, including programs to assist victims of domestic violence in finding and maintaining permanent housing; provided further, that participants in battered women's programs shall be provided with information regarding local transitional housing resources; provided further, that funding shall be made available to enhance counseling services for children who have witnessed domestic violence; provided further, that funding shall be made available for emergency shelters for substance abusing battered women; provided further, that funding shall be made available for a statewide domestic violence hotline; provided further, that the department shall continue to provide any match funding required by federal program regulations; and provided further, that domestic violence prevention specialists shall be funded from this item; provided further that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended for a domestic violence prevention program called 'Teens-At-Risk', operated by Portal To Hope for the communities of Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford and Winthrop without the need of approval by the commissioner of public health; provided further, that not less than \$15,000 shall be expended for the Words not Weapons mentoring project in the town of Saugus; provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended for the Wakefield Alliance Against Violence; and provided further, that not less than \$10,000 shall be expended for the Melrose Alliance Against Violence\$22,972,526